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Reply to OA dated: February 11, 2008

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATIONS

Please replace paragraph [0009] with the following amended paragraph:

5   [0009]   The invention, therefore, according to one aspect provides an operations, management, capacity, and services (OMCS) tool for assessing business solutions comprising alternative network architectures and management processes for a telecommunications network. The tool comprises means for inputting data and options for plurality of network architectures and management processes by an analyst; and

10   means for engineering the plurality of network architectures and the management processes based on the input data and options. The management processes comprise network management processes and service and customer management processes for managing the plurality of network architectures. The tool also comprises means for determining suppliers' equipment and management processes costs for the plurality of

15   network architectures and the network management processes and the service and customer management processes. The tool comprises means for determining, based on the costs of the plurality of network architectures and the management processes, business parameters for the business solutions; and means for storing or displaying the business parameters for the business solutions for the telecommunications network

20   ~~comprises a means for analyzing business parameters for a plurality of network architectures; and comparing the business parameters for said network architectures for determining cost savings of one network architecture versus another and for determining a business solution that articulates the network architecture for reducing total expenditure.~~

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Please replace paragraph [0010] with the following amended paragraph:

[0010]   The means for determining the business parameters comprise means for

30   computing [[the]] total expenditure; and wherein the total expenditure comprises capital expenditure (CAPEX) and operational expenditure (OPEX). The CAPEX

comprises a network architecture cost; taxes; interests; and ~~deprecation~~ depreciation and amortization (D/A) expenses. The OPEX comprises a management processes cost; a leasing cost; and sales, general and administration (SG&A) expenses.

Please replace paragraph [0011] with the following amended paragraph:

[0011]   The business parameters further comprise <u>financial statistics comprising</u> revenue; capacity; return on investment (ROI); earnings before interest, taxes, and ~~deprecation~~ <u>depreciation</u> and amortization (EBITDA); earnings before interest and taxes (EBIT); OPEX as percentage of revenue; and total expenditure as percentage of revenue. <u>The means for determining the business parameters comprises means for computing the business parameters for the business solutions over a pre-determined study period and storing or displaying the business parameters in tables and graphical charts for the business solutions over the pre-determined study period.</u>

Please replace paragraph [0012] with the following amended paragraph:

[0012]   The OMCS tool <u>comprises</u> means for <u>inputting traffic data; customer data; and financial and labour data; and means for inputting technology options comprising</u> ~~analyzing the business parameters comprises means for analyzing the business parameters for a network architecture having~~ one or more of the following technology: TDM, ATM, FR, IP, VPN, MPLS, and optical Ethernet including fiber, synchronous optical network (SONET), resilience packet ring (RPR), and dense wavelength division multiplexing (DWDM), <u>for a network architecture for a business solution; [[.]] and</u> [[This]] means <u>for inputting management processes options for the network management processes and the service and customer management processes for managing the network architecture for the business solution</u> ~~further comprises a means for computing the business parameters for each of said network architectures over a pre-determined study period.~~

Please replace paragraph [0013] with the following amended paragraph:

[0013]   The OMCS tool comprises means for validating and calibrating the input
data and options and the costs for the plurality of network architectures and the
management processes for the business solutions comparing the business parameters
for the plurality of network architectures comprises means for reporting the business
parameters for each of said network architectures over said pre-determined study
period, wherein the business solution comprises the network architecture with the least
total expenditure.

Please replace paragraph [0014] with the following amended paragraph:

[0014]   The OMCS tool further comprises means for engineering a plurality of
the network architecture architectures for the business solution; and means for a pre-
determined input user data; determining a network architecture cost and a leasing cost
for the network architecture for the business solution each of said network
architectures over a pre-determined study period; engineering management processes
for managing each of said network architectures; and determining a management
processes cost for said management processes over said pre-determined study period.
The tool further comprises means for inputting user data; and validating and calibrating
the input user data; the network architecture cost; the leasing cost; and the
management processes cost for each of said network architectures.

Please replace paragraph [0015] with the following amended paragraph:

[0015]   The OMCS tool means for engineering the plurality of network
architecture architectures comprises [[a]] means for determining an owned network
elements (NEs) count; a leased NEs count; an owned customer premise equipment

(CPE) count; a leased CPE count; an owned links count; a leased links count; and a leased ports count. ~~for each of said network architectures; and wherein said~~ The network architecture ~~architectures~~ comprises ~~having~~ NEs, CPE, and links from the same or different equipment suppliers.

5

Please replace paragraph [0016] with the following amended paragraph:

[0016]   The ~~OMCS tool~~ means for determining the network architecture cost ~~and the leasing cost for each of the plurality of network architectures~~ comprises means for determining an owned cost (a price) per network element (NE), a footprint per NE cost, [[and]] a power consumption per NE cost; ~~determining~~ an owned cost (a price) per CPE, a footprint per CPE cost, [[and]] a power consumption per CPE cost; ~~and determining~~ an owned cost (a price) per link and a link transmission rate.

15

Please replace paragraph [0017] with the following amended paragraph:

[0017]   The means for determining the network architecture cost <u>further</u> comprises means for computing a total owned NEs cost; a total owned CPE cost; and a total owned links cost for ~~each of said~~ <u>the</u> network architecture ~~architectures~~ <u>for the business solution</u> ~~over said pre-determined study period. The means for determining the leasing cost comprises a means for computing a total footprints cost and a total power consumptions cost for said NEs and CPE over said pre-determined study period.~~

25

Please replace paragraph [0018] with the following amended paragraph:

30 [0018]   The ~~OMCS tool~~ means for determining the leasing cost ~~further~~ comprises means for determining a leased per NE cost, a footprint per NE cost, [[and]] a power

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consumption per NE cost; ~~determining~~ a leased per CPE cost, a footprint per CPE

cost, [[and]] a power consumption per CPE cost; ~~determining~~ a leased per link cost

~~and a link transmission rate~~; ~~determining~~ a leased link per unit length cost, a unit length

per link count, and a link transmission rate; and ~~determining~~ a leased per port cost.

5   This means further comprises means for computing a total leased NEs cost; a total

leased CPE cost; a total footprints cost and a total power consumptions cost for

[[said]] the NEs and CPE; a total leased links cost; a total leased links [[for]] per unit

length cost; and a total leased ports cost for ~~each of said~~ the network architecture

~~architectures~~ for the business solution ~~over said pre-determined study period~~.

10

Please replace paragraph [0019] with the following amended paragraph:

[0019]   The OMCS tool comprises means for engineering the management

15   processes ~~comprises means for engineering~~ comprising network management

processes; and service and customer management processes [[,]] having ~~wherein said~~

~~management~~ processes ~~having said processes~~ from the same or different management

processes suppliers for managing the network architecture for the business solution. It

also comprises means for determining a management processes cost comprising a

20   network management processes cost and a service and customer management

processes cost.

Please replace paragraph [0020] with the following amended paragraph:

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[0020]   The means for engineering the network management processes comprises

a means for ~~selecting~~ engineering one or more of the following processes: inside plant

maintenance; outside plant maintenance; network engineering; network provisioning;

installation; testing; and repairs.

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Please replace paragraph [0021] with the following amended paragraph:

[0021]   The means for engineering the service and customer management
processes comprises a means for selecting engineering one or more of the following
processes: customer relationship management (CRM); work order management
(WOM); network inventory management (NAI); service activation and provisioning
(SAP); fault management (FM); performance management (PM); accounting and
billing; and security management.

Please replace paragraph [0022] with the following amended paragraph:

[0022]   The OMCS tool means for determining the network management
processes cost comprises a means for computing determining a process cost per NE
for each of said the network management processes cost based on whether the
operations of each of the network management processes is performed using [[for]]
one or more of the following: a manual operations mode; a mechanized operations
mode; and a manual and mechanized operations mode. The means for determining the
service and customer management processes cost further comprises a means for
computing determining a process cost per link for each of said the service and
customer management processes cost based on whether the operations of each of the
service and customer management processes is performed using [[for]] one or more of
the following: a manual operations mode; a mechanized operations mode; and a
manual and mechanized operations mode.

Please replace paragraph [0023] with the following amended paragraph:

[0023]   Another aspect of the invention provides a computer-readable medium
program containing instructions for directing a computer to perform a process for

assessing business solutions comprising alternative network architectures and management processes for a telecommunications network. The medium comprises means for causing the computer to receive data and options for plurality of network architectures and management processes from an analyst; and means for causing the computer to engineer the plurality of network architectures and the management processes based on the received data and options. The medium comprises means for causing the computer to receive costs for equipment and management processes. The medium comprises means for causing the computer to calculate, based on the costs of the plurality of network architectures and the management processes, business parameters for the business solutions; and to store or output the business parameters for the business solutions for the telecommunications network ~~analyzing business parameters for a plurality of network architectures, and comparing the business parameters for said network architectures over a pre-determined study period.~~

Please replace paragraph [0024] with the following amended paragraph:

[0024]   The ~~program~~ medium comprises means for causing the computer to receive traffic data, customer data, and financial and labour data; to receive technology options comprising one or more of the following technology: TDM, ATM, FR, IP, VPN, MPLS, and optical Ethernet including fiber, SONET, RPR, and DWDM, for a network architecture for a business solution; and to receive management processes options for the network management processes and service and customer management processes for managing the network architecture for the business solution ~~data for the plurality of network architectures; analyze the received data to compute the business parameters for said network architectures; and compare said computed business parameters for said network architectures for determining cost savings of one network architecture versus another and for determining a business solution that articulates the network architecture for reducing total expenditure.~~

Please replace paragraph [0025] with the following amended paragraph:

[0025]   The ~~program~~ medium comprises means for causing the computer to
engineer the network architecture for the business solution; and to compute a network
architecture cost and a leasing cost for the network architecture for the business
solution ~~receive the data for the plurality of network architectures comprises means for~~
~~causing the computer to receive input user data; network architectures data; and~~
~~management processes data for said network architectures. The input user data~~
~~comprises traffic data; customer data; and financial and labour data for the plurality of~~
~~network architectures. The network architectures data comprises network elements~~
~~(NEs) data; CPE data; links and ports data; and further comprises network~~
~~architectures options for said network architectures. The management processes data~~
~~comprises network management data; service and customer management data; and~~
~~further comprises network management options; and service and customer~~
~~management options for managing each of said network architectures.~~

Please replace paragraph [0026] with the following amended paragraph:

[0026]   The ~~program~~ medium comprises means for causing the computer to
engineer one or more of the following network management processes: inside plant
maintenance, outside plant maintenance, network engineering, network provisioning,
installation, testing, and repairs; and means for causing the computer to engineer one
or more of the following service and customer management processes: CRM, WOM,
NIM, SAP, FM, PM, accounting and billing, and security management, for managing
the network architecture for the business solution. The medium also comprises means
for causing the computer to compute a management processes cost comprising a
network management processes cost and a service and customer management
processes cost for the network, service and customer management processes based on
whether the operations of these management processes is performed manually, using

mechanized systems (i.e., OSS) or both based on the Service Provider operating environment ~~analyze the received data comprises a means for causing the computer to compute the business parameters for said network architectures over said pre-determined study period~~.

5

Please replace paragraph [0027] with the following amended paragraph:

[0027] The ~~program~~ medium comprises means for causing the computer to compute the ~~compare said~~ business parameters for the business solutions over a pre-determined study period; and to store or display in tables and graphical charts the business parameters for the business solutions ~~said network architectures comprises a means for causing the computer to tabulate and graphically chart the business parameters for said network architectures~~ over [[said]] the predetermined study period.

15

Please replace paragraph [0028] with the following amended paragraph:

20 [0028] In accordance with a first embodiment of this invention, the computer-readable medium ~~program~~ is a self-contained Microsoft EXCEL-based decision support software tool comprises a plurality of EXCEL workbooks. A number of EXCEL workbooks are for inputting data and options for plurality of network architectures and management processes for the business solutions; and others for engineering the network architectures and the management processes and determining their costs. Other workbooks are for determining, storing, and displaying the business parameters for the business solutions for the telecommunications network ~~receiving input user data; network architectures data and options; and management processes data and options. A workbook is for analyzing and combining the received data; and another workbook for computing the business parameters for a plurality of network~~

architectures. In yet another workbook, the computed business parameters are
tabulated and graphically charted for each of said network architectures.

5   Please replace paragraph [0029] with the following amended paragraph:

[0029]   In accordance with a second embodiment of this invention, the computer-
readable medium program is a self-contained software tool comprises a plurality of
sub-programs linked together and the sub-programs are written in one or more of the
10   following computer languages: machine language, C/C++, virtual basic, and Java. A
number of sub-programs are for inputting data and options for plurality of network
architectures and management processes for the business solutions; and others for
engineering the network architectures and the management processes and determining
their costs. Other sub-programs are for determining, storing, and displaying the
15   business parameters for the business solutions for the telecommunications network
receiving input user data; network architectures data and options; and management
processes data and options. A sub-program is for analyzing and combining the
received data; and another sub-program is for computing the business parameters for a
plurality of network architectures. The computed business parameters are then passed
20   to another sub-program for tabulating and graphically charting the business parameters
for each of said network architectures.

Please replace paragraph [0030] with the following amended paragraph:
25

[0030]   A further aspect of the invention provides a computer-implemented
method for assessing business solutions comprising alternative network architectures
and management processes for a telecommunications network. The method comprises
the steps of inputting data and options for plurality of network architectures and
30   management processes by an analyst; and engineering the plurality of network
architectures and the management processes based on the input data and options. The

method comprises the steps of determining suppliers' equipment and management

processes costs. The management processes comprise network management processes

and service and customer management processes for managing the plurality of network

architectures. The method comprises the steps of determining, based on the costs of

5   the plurality of network architectures and the management processes, business

parameters for the business solutions; and storing or displaying the business parameters

for the business solutions for the telecommunications network developing business

solution for a telecommunications network using the OMCS tool. The method

comprises the steps of receiving data for a plurality of network architectures; analyzing

10   the received data to compute business parameters for said network architectures; and

comparing said computed business parameters for said network architectures for

determining cost savings of one network architecture versus another and for

determining a business solution that articulates the network architecture for reducing

total expenditure.

15

Please replace paragraph [0031] with the following amended paragraph:

[0031]   The method comprises the steps of determining the business parameters

20   for the business solutions over a pre-determined study period; and storing or displaying

in tables and graphical charts the business parameters for the business solutions over

the pre-determined study period comprise the total expenditure; and wherein the total

expenditure comprises CAPEX and OPEX. The business parameters further comprise

business and financial statistics comprising revenue, capacity, ROI, EBITDA, EBIT,

25   OPEX as percentage of revenue, and total expenditure as percentage of revenue.

Please replace paragraph [0032] with the following amended paragraph:

30   [0032]   The step of receiving data method comprises [[a]] the step of validating

and calibrating the data and options and the costs for the business solutions receiving

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~~input user data; network architectures data; management processes data; network architectures options; network management processes options; and service and customer management processes options for the plurality of network architectures.~~

5

Please replace paragraph [0033] with the following amended paragraph:

[0033]   The ~~step of analyzing the business parameters~~ <u>method</u> comprises [[a]] <u>the steps</u> [[step]] of <u>inputting traffic data, customer data, and labour and financial data;</u>

10   <u>inputting technology options comprising</u> ~~analyzing the business parameters for a network architecture having~~ one or more of the following technology: TDM, ATM, FR, IP, VPN, MPLS, and optical Ethernet including fiber, SONET, RPR, and DWDM<u>, for a network architecture for a business solution; and inputting management processes options for the network management processes and the service and</u>

15   <u>customer management processes for managing the network architecture for the business solution.</u> ~~This step further comprises a step of adjusting and updating data for said network architectures.~~

20   Please replace paragraph [0034] with the following amended paragraph:

[0034]   The <u>method comprises engineering the network architecture for the business solution; and determining a network architecture cost and a leasing cost for the network architecture for the business solution</u> ~~step of comparing the business parameters for the plurality of network architectures comprises a step of reporting said~~

25   ~~business parameters for said network architectures over a predetermined study period; and wherein the business solution comprises the network architecture with the least total expenditure and said network architecture having NEs, CPE, and links from the same or different equipment suppliers; and having network, service, and customer~~

30   ~~management processes from the same or different management processes suppliers.~~

Please replace paragraph [0035] with the following amended paragraph:

[0035]   The method step of reporting the business parameters further comprises
engineering network management processes comprising one or more of the following
processes: inside plant maintenance, outside plant maintenance, network engineering,
network provisioning, installation, testing, and repairs; and engineering service and
customer management processes comprising one or more of the following processes:
CRM, WOM, NIM, SAP, FM, PM, accounting and billing, and security management
for managing the network architecture for the business solution. The method also
comprises the steps of determining a management processes cost comprising a
network management processes cost and a service and customer management
processes cost for the business solution based on whether the operations of these
management processes is performed manually, using mechanized systems (i.e., OSS)
or both based on the Service Provider operating environment a step of tabulating and
graphically charting the business parameters for each of said network architectures
over said pre-determined study period.

Please replace paragraph [0036] with the following amended paragraph:

[0036]   This invention provides an operations, management, capacity, and
services (OMCS) tool and method for developing assessing business solutions solution
for a telecommunications network. The business solutions comprise plurality of
network architectures having various technologies and management processes for
managing the plurality of network architectures. The management processes replicate
today's operations and management networks for Service Providers; and the
management processes cost is determined based on whether the operations of these
management processes is performed manually, using mechanized systems (i.e., OSS)
or both based on the Service Provider operating environment. The OMCS tool
automates the calculation of the business parameters for the business solutions a

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plurality of network architectures and enables the Service Provider to compare comparison of technology alternatives for [[said]] the network architectures for the business solutions. The OMCS tool provides a comprehensive view of the business solutions solution for the telecommunications network that enables the Service

5   Provider to quantify articulates the savings of one network architecture business solution versus another and identifies the areas for cost reduction.

Please replace paragraph [0037] with the following amended paragraph:

10

[0037]   Advantageously, the costs for managing and operating the network architecture are integrated with the cost of the network architecture in the total cost of the business solution and the Service Provider would be able to identify the areas for enhancing or reducing the management and operating cost of the telecommunications

15   network. Reducing the management and operating cost of a telecommunications network is critical to the survival of the Service Provider. The embodiments of the present invention provide improved software tools and methods for assessing business solutions solution for a telecommunications network that would overcome the shortcomings and limitations of the prior arts.

20

Please replace paragraph [0060] with the following amended paragraph:

[0060]   Figure 1 shows a diagram illustrating an operations, management,

25   capacity, and services (OMCS) tool 100 comprising software modules for input user data 110 means; engineering a plurality of network architectures 120 means; determining suppliers equipment costs 140 means; engineering management processes 130 means; determining suppliers management processes costs 150 means; validating and calibrating data 155 means; analyzing business parameters 160 means; and

30   reporting business solutions 170 means.

Please replace paragraph [0061] with the following amended paragraph:

[0061]   The input user data 110 means ~~module~~ enables an analyst to input user data and options for a plurality of network architectures to be modeled. The input user data comprises traffic data; customer data; and financial and labour data. The options enable the analyst to select technology alternatives for network architectures and management processes for ~~managing said network architectures~~ business solutions for a telecommunications network.

Please replace paragraph [0062] with the following amended paragraph:

[0062]   The options for the technology alternatives for network architectures comprise one or more of the following: time division multiplexing (TDM), asynchronous transfer mode (ATM), frame relay (FR), Internet protocol (IP), virtual private network (VPN), multi protocol label switching (MPLS), and optical Ethernet including fiber, synchronous optical network (SONET), resilience packet ring (RPR), and dense wavelength division multiplexing (DWDM). The options for the management processes enable the analyst to select the network management processes, and service and customer management processes for managing said technology alternatives for the network architectures for the business solutions.

Please replace paragraph [0063] with the following amended paragraph:

[0063]   The network architectures to be modeled are configured in the engineering a plurality of network architectures 120 means ~~module~~ and network architectures data for said network architectures are determined. A network architecture cost and a leasing cost for each of said network architectures are determined by communicating with the determining suppliers equipment costs 140

means module. This means module communicates with suppliers' equipment database
(not shown) for costing (owned and leased) network elements (NEs), customer
premise equipment (CPE), and links for each of the network architectures.

5

Please replace paragraph [0064] with the following amended paragraph:

[0064]   The engineering management processes 130 means module defines
engineers management processes for managing each of said network architectures and
10   the determining supplier management processes costs 150 means module determines
their costs. The determining supplier management processes costs 150 means module
communicates with a suppliers' management processes database (not shown) for
costing each management process for network, service, and customer management.

15

Please replace paragraph [0065] with the following amended paragraph:

[0065]   The validating and calibrating data 155 means module validates and
calibrates the data received from the input user data 110 means module; the
20   engineering a plurality of network architectures 120 means module; the engineering
management processes 130 means module; the determining suppliers equipment costs
140 means module; and the determining suppliers management processes costs 150
means module, to ensure that service, customer, and network requirements and
management are met in terms of quality of service (QoS) and network capacity.

25

Please replace paragraph [0066] with the following amended paragraph:

[0066]   The analyzing business parameters 160 means module combines the data
30   received from the validating and calibrating data 155 means module to compute
business parameters for each of said network architectures the business solutions over

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a pre-determined study period, wherein the pre-determined study period comprises a plurality of a pre-determined time periods, (for example, for a pre-determined time period of one year, the pre-determined study period could be five or ten years).

Please replace paragraph [0067] with the following amended paragraph:

[0067]   The business parameters comprise total expenditure, wherein the total expenditure comprises capital expenditure (CAPEX) and operational expenditure (OPEX). The CAPEX comprises a network architecture cost, taxes, interests, and ~~deprecation~~ depreciation and amortization (D/A) expenses; and the OPEX comprises a management processes cost; a leasing cost; and sales, general and administration (SG&A) expenses.

Please replace paragraph [0068] with the following amended paragraph:

[0068]   The business parameters further comprise financial and business statistics comprising revenue; capacity; return on investment (ROI); earnings before interest, taxes, and ~~deprecation~~ depreciation and amortization (~~EBrIDA~~ EBITDA); earnings before interest and taxes (EBIT); OPEX as percentage of revenue; and total expenditure as percentage of revenue.

Please replace paragraph [0069] with the following amended paragraph:

[0069]   The reporting business solutions 170 means ~~module~~ reports in tables and graphical charts the business parameters for ~~each of said network architectures~~ the business solutions over said pre-determined study period.

Please replace paragraph [0087] with the following amended paragraph:

[0087]   The ARCH1 520 having switching nodes 521 and services nodes 522

5   from supplier A 501; add/drop nodes [[524]] 523 and cross-connect nodes 524 from

supplier B 502; and other nodes 525 from supplier C 503. The ARCH2 530 having

switching nodes 531 and services nodes 532 from supplier A 504; add/drop nodes

[[534]] 533 and cross-connect nodes 534 from supplier B 505; and other nodes 535

from supplier C 506. The ARCH3 540 having switching nodes 541 and services nodes

10   542 from supplier A 507; add/drop nodes [[544]] 543 and cross-connect nodes 544

from supplier B 508; and other nodes 545 from supplier C 509.

Please replace paragraph [0094] with the following amended paragraph:

15

[0094]   A total footprints cost 675 is determined by multiplying the sum of the

owned CPE count 650 and the leased CPE count 663 by the footprint per CPE cost

670. A total owned CPE cost 660 is determined by multiplying the owned CPE count

650 by the price per CPE 655. A total leased CPE cost 680 is determined by

20   multiplying the leased CPE count 663 by the leased per CPE cost 665. A total power

consumptions cost 690 is determined by multiplying the sum of the owned CPE count

650 and the leased CPE count 663 by the power consumption per CPE cost 685.

25   Please replace paragraph [0097] with the following amended paragraph:

[0097]   The ARCH1 720 having T1 721 and T3 722 links from supplier A 701;

E1 723 and E3 724 links from supplier B 702; and DSL links 725, 10/100 BT 726, and

100/1000 BT 727 links from supplier C 703. The ARCH2 730 having fiber 100FX 731

30   from supplier A 704; OC3 732, OC12 733, OC48 734, and OC 192 links 735 from

supplier B 705; and DWDM ring 736, RPR ring 737, and 1000SX/1000LX 738 from

supplier C 706. The ARCH3 740 having SONET ring 741 and microwave 742 links
from supplier A 707; fiber 100 FX 743 and 100/1000 BT 744 links from supplier B
708; and DSL 745 and T3 746 links from supplier C 709.

5

Please replace paragraph [0151] with the following amended paragraph:

[0151]   Procedure 1700 adjusts and updates data (block 1780) as required and
re-analyzes the business parameters (block 1740). When analysis is completed for the
10   pre-determined study period, procedure 1700 reports the business parameters for said
network architectures over the pre-determined study period. The reporting of said
business parameters comprises tabulating and graphically charting the business
parameters (block 1790) for each of the network architectures over said pre-
determined study period, thus, finishing the procedure 1700 (block 1795).
15

Please replace paragraph [0168] with the following amended paragraph:

[0168]   Figure 21 shows an illustrative graphical output from an execution of the
20   OMCS tool of Figure 1. The graph 2100 plots dollars per Mbps [[2010]] 2110 over
five years study period 2120, year0, year1, year2, year3, and year4 for five network
architectures ARCH1 2130, ARCH2 2135, ARCH3 2140, ARCH4 2145, and ARCH5
2150. The five architectures represent the five different technologies described in
Figure 18 above. In graph 2100 it can be seen that the return on investment for
25   ARCH5 2050 is higher than the other architectures.

Please replace paragraph [0169] with the following amended paragraph:

30   [0169]   The embodiments of this invention provide a software an OMCS tool
that automates the calculation of [[the]] business parameters for a plurality of network

architectures business solutions for a telecommunications network. A user of the

OMCS tool is able to select, engineer, and cost plurality of network architectures

having various technologies and different network, service, and customer management

processes for a telecommunications network. The management processes replicate

today's operations and management networks for Service Providers. The OMCS tool

enables comparison of different network architectures comprising comprise NEs, CPE,

and links from the same or different equipment suppliers, and have network, service,

and customer management processes from the same or different management

processes suppliers.

Please replace paragraph [0172] with the following amended paragraph:

[0172]   The present invention provides a software an OMCS tool and method for

business solutions solution for a telecommunications network. It will be apparent to

those with skill in the art that modifications to the above methods and embodiments

can occur without deviating from the scope of the present invention. Accordingly, the

disclosures and descriptions herein are intended to be illustrative, but not limiting, of

the scope of the invention which is set forth in the following claims.

Please replace the ABSTRACT with the following amended ABSTRACT:

An operations, management, capacity, and services (OMCS) tool and

method are presented for assessing business solutions comprising alternative network

architectures and management processes for a telecommunications network. The tool

comprises means for selecting, engineering, and costing plurality of network

architectures having various technologies and management processes for the business

solutions. The management processes create and establish management networks for

managing the plurality of network architectures. The tool further comprises means for

determining, storing, and displaying business parameters for the business solutions.

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analyzing business parameters for a plurality of network architectures; and comparing the business parameters for said network architectures for determining cost savings of one network architecture versus another and for determining a business solution that articulates the network architecture for reducing total expenditure. The business

5   parameters comprise capital expenditure (CAPEX), operational expenditure (OPEX), total expenditure, revenue, capacity, return on investment (ROI), and other business and financial statistics. The OMCS tool and method determine assess the business solution for an owned, a leased, or partially owned and leased telecommunications network. The business solutions solution further comprises comprise network

10   architectures architecture having network elements (NEs), customer premise equipment (CPE), and links from the same or different equipment suppliers; and management networks for managing the network architectures having network, service, and customer management processes from the same or different management processes suppliers.